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10/586,916	07/24/2006	Sander R. Kooijmans	US040072US	8244

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EXAMINER
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POLLOCK, GREGORY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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4182

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02/21/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/586,916	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KOOIJMANS, SANDER R.	
	<b>Examiner</b> GREG POLLOCK	<b>Art Unit</b> 4182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/24/2006</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the claims filed 07/24/2006.
2. Claims 1-18 have been examined.

***Priority***

3. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged and granted.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

4. The information disclosure statement filed 07/24/2006 has been received and placed on record in the file.

***Title***

5. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The following title is suggested: "A Method and System for Using a Loader for Set Top Device Software Updates".

***Drawings***

6. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 22 and 30. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR

1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

7. The specification is objected to because of the following minor informalities:
  - a. The applicant is requested to clearly label the application using the following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

### **Arrangement of the Specification**

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.

(d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.

(e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.

(f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

(1) Field of the Invention.

(2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

(g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

(h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

(i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

(j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).

(k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).

(l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

- b. Page 4, line 5 reads "which in the preferred embodiment is FLASH 58 memory." should be corrected to "which in the preferred embodiment is FLASH 52 memory."
- c. Page 4, lines 27-28 reads "akin to the first mode 1discussed above." should be corrected to "akin to the first mode discussed above."
- d. Page 6, lines 25-27 reads "Test local download server 14 is auseful in instances where the software image in the system becomes corrupt and no software images are currently being broadcasted." should be corrected to "Test local download server 14 is useful in instances where the software image in the system becomes corrupt and no software images are currently being broadcasted."

- e. Page 9, lines 9-10 reads “Variations of these embodiment will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art” should be corrected to “Variations of these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art”

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

- 8. The specification is objected to because of the following minor informalities:
  - a. Claim 1, line 6 reads “indicating (44) to one of the modes within the receiver device on occurrences of available software updates;” should be corrected to “indicating (44) to one of the modes within the receiver device one occurrences of available software updates;”
  - b. Claim 6, line 2 reads “containing software in a non-volatile memory (52) that can be upgraded via network” should be corrected to “containing software in a non-volatile memory (52) that can be upgraded via a network”
  - c. Page 13, line 2 reads “software update are available to the loader” should be corrected to “software updates are available to the loader”.
  - d. Claim 14, line 1 reads “The receiver system of claim 12 the standby mode” should be corrected to “The receiver system of claim 12 where the standby mode”.
  - e. Claim 18 is missing a “.” at the end of the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:  
  
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
10. Claims 1, line 3 recites the structural element "the set top device". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these structural elements in these claims.
11. Claims 1, line 5 recites the structural element "the modes". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these structural elements in these claims. For the purpose of compact prosecution, the office assumes this to mean "the plurality of modes" as found in Claim 1, line 2.
12. Claims 6, line 1 recites the structural element "the system". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these structural elements in these claims. For the purpose of compact prosecution, the office assumes this to mean "the receiver system" as found earlier in Claim 6, line 1.
13. Claims 15, line 1 recites the structural element "updates". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these structural elements in these claims. For the purpose of compact prosecution, the office assumes this to mean "the software updates" as found in Claim 11, line 9.
14. Claims 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 15, line 3 recites the limitation "a software update ". It is unclear if this is a new software update or the software

update referenced in Claim 11, line 9. For the purpose of compact prosecution, the office assumes that this is the same software update referenced in Claim 11, line 9. Claim 15, line should be corrected to “the software update.” to clarify the intent of the claim.

15. Claims 15, line 4 recites the structural element "the new software update". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these structural elements in these claims. For the purpose of compact prosecution, the office assumes this to mean “the software update” as found in Claim 11, line 9.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

16. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

17. Claims 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility. The claimed invention claims a general utility that is applicable to a broad class of software applications and therefore lacks specific utility. The current focus of the Patent Office in regard to specific utility is to distinguish between situations where an applicant has disclosed a specific use for or application of the invention and situations where the applicant merely indicates that the invention may prove useful without identifying with specificity why it is considered useful.



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

18. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

19. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bacon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6212278).

**As per claim 1**, Bacon et al. teaches **a method for updating software** (code on a subscriber terminal is modified by downloading new code [Abstract, lines 1-4], where a subscriber terminal is more commonly known as a set top terminal [column 1, lines 12-14]) **comprising the steps of:**

**implementing a plurality of modes** (an off mode [column 15, lines 19-22] and an “interactive session” [column 15, lines 9-12]) **on a receiver device (50)** (Figure 1, elements 40, 44, and 48 shows various means for receiving downloaded data from the headend source [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39]) **such that at least a first mode is a normal operating mode for the set top device** (“interactive session” [column 15, lines 9-12]) **and a second mode (10) searches for software updates;** (software updates are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18])

**searching (16) for software updates with at least one of the modes;** (software update are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18])

**indicating (44) to one of the modes within the receiver device on occurrences of available software updates;** (Byte 19 is used to indicate if a software is download immediately or at some time in the future. [column 9, lines 36-38] If the immediate download flag is not set and in the off mode, the convenience flag is set, see Figure 9], and the user is prompted in the “interactive session” mode whether or not to update non-volatile RAM from data which is stored in a volatile memory area. [column 15, lines 25-45] and Figure 10.

Also see claim 44. In “interactive session” mode, the user can choose to download the program later by setting the convenience flag [column 15, lines 25-45] , which can be processed later in the off mode [column 15, lines 19-22])

**transferring (28) available software updates to the receiver device;** (the MCC controls input of data from the headend and buffers it in volatile memory area. [column 2, lines 11-27])

**and installing (22) transferred software updates into the programmable device.** (Figure 9 shows the data being transfers from volatile memory DRAM (dual port ram) to non-volatile memory (FLASH memory) [column 1, lines 47-48] and [column 13, lines 3-13])

**As per claim 2, the rejection of claim 1 has been addressed.**

Drazin teaches **a method wherein the step of implementing further comprises as the plurality of modes an operational mode** an “interactive session” [column 15, lines 9-12]) **and a standby mode.** (an off mode [column 15, lines 19-22])

**As per claim 3, the rejection of claim 2 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a method wherein the steps of searching (16) and transferring (28) are done in the standby mode.** (software updates are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18]. If the Byte 19, “immediate flag” is set, the downloaded code is transferred from the buffer to the FLASH memory area immediately, see Figure 9 and [column 14, line 64 – column 15, line 8])

**As per claim 4, the rejection of claim 2 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a method wherein the steps of searching (16) and transferring (28) are done in the operational mode.** (software updates are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18]. If the Byte 19, “immediate flag” is set, the downloaded code is transferred from the buffer to the FLASH memory area immediately, see Figure 9 and [column 14, line 64 – column 15, line 8])

**As per claim 5, the rejection of claim 3 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a method wherein the step of searching (16) further comprise in the standby mode searching for software updates,** (software update are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as

evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18]) **and if software updates are found an indication that software updates are available is made.** Byte 19 is used to indicate if a software is download immediately or at some time in the future. [column 9, lines 36-38] If the immediate download flag is not set and in the off mode, the convenience flag is set, see Figure 9], and the user is prompted in the “interactive session” mode whether or not to update non-volatile RAM from data which is stored in a volatile memory area. [column 15, lines 25-45] and Figure 10. Also see claim 44.)

**As per claim 6,** Bacon et al. teaches **a receiver system (50) with a communication interface (62),** (Figure 1, elements 40, 44, and 48 shows various means for receiving downloaded data from the headend source [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39]) **the system (50) containing software in a non-volatile memory (52)** ([column 13, lines 3-13]) **that can be upgraded via network connection comprising:** ((Figure 1, elements 40, 44, and 48 shows various means for receiving downloaded data from the headend source [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39])

**a standby mode within the receiver system (50) that works in conjunction with an operational mode to install software updates,** (an off mode [column 15, lines 19-22] and an “interactive session” [column 15, lines 9-12]) **wherein the receiver system (50) normally functions in the operational mode, device (“interactive session” [column 15, lines 9-12]) and the standby mode does not function simultaneously with the operational mode;** (an off mode [column 15, lines 19-22])

**and a routine (10) operative in either the operational mode or the standby mode to provide an indication (16) of availability for software updates that is used by the other of either the operational mode or the standby mode to identify the indication and assist in installing software updates into the receiver.** (software update are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18]. Byte 19 is used to indicate if a software is download immediately or at some time in the future. [column 9, lines 36-38] If the immediate download flag is not set and in the off mode, the convenience flag is set, see Figure 9], and the user is prompted in the “interactive session” mode whether or not to update non-volatile RAM from data which is stored in a volatile memory area. [column 15, lines 25-45] and Figure 10. Also see claim 44. In “interactive session” mode, the user can choose to download the program later by setting the convenience flag [column 15, lines 25-45] , which can be processed later in the off mode [column 15, lines 19-22]

**As per claim 7, the rejection of claim 6 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the standby mode identifies the existence of software updates and the operational mode installs available updaters in the receiver.** (Byte 19 is used to indicate if a software is download immediately or at some time in the future. [column 9, lines 36-38] If the immediate download flag is not set and in the off mode, the convenience flag is set, see Figure 9], and the user is prompted in the “interactive session” mode whether or not to update non-volatile RAM from data which is stored in a volatile memory area. [column 15, lines 25-45] and Figure 10. Also see claim 44.

**As per claim 8, the rejection of claim 6 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the operational mode will identify the existence of available software updates and the stand by mode will load available software updates into the receiver.** (Byte 19 is used to indicate if a software is download immediately or at some time in the future [column 9, lines 36-38]. In “interactive session” mode, the user can choose to download the program later by setting the convenience flag [column 15, lines 25-45] , which can be processed later in the off mode [column 15, lines 19-22])

**As per claim 9, the rejection of claim 6 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the routine places software updates into a volatile memory that is later placed into the non-volatile memory.** (the MCC controls input of data from the headend and buffers it in volatile memory area. [column 2, lines 11-27]. (Figure 9 shows the data being transfers from volatile memory DRAM (dual port ram) to non-volatile memory (FLASH memory) [column 1, lines 47-48] and [column 13, lines 3-13])

**As per claim 10, the rejection of claim 9 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the routine places software updates into the volatile memory in the standby mode** (software update are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18])

**a system receiver places software updates into the non-volatile memory after reentering the operational mode.** (Byte 19 is used to indicate if a software is download immediately or at some time in the future. [column 9, lines 36-38] If the immediate download flag is not set and in the off mode, the convenience flag is set, see Figure 9], and the user is prompted in the “interactive session” mode whether or not to update non-volatile RAM from data which is stored in a volatile memory area. [column 15, lines 25-45] and Figure 10. Also see claim 44.)

**As per claim 11, Bacon et al. teaches a receiver system (50) ((Figure 1, elements 40, 44, and 48 shows various means for receiving downloaded data from the headend source [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39]) with a non-**

**volatile memory (52)** ([column 13, lines 3-13]) **that can be altered comprising: a communication interface (62) in the receiver system** (Figure 1, elements 40, 44, and 48 shows various means for receiving downloaded data from the headend source [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39]) **that is operatively coupled to the non-volatile memory (52)** ([column 13, lines 3-13]) **under control of processing means within the receiver system;** ([column 2, lines 1-2]) **system software means within the receiver that performs normal operation of the receiver system;** (“interactive session” [column 15, lines 9-12])

**and a loader (10)** (boot program [Abstract, lines 4-5]) **that functions independently from the system software means to search (16) for software updates and retrieve (28) updates that are found;** ([Abstract, lines 5-21]) **wherein the loader runs upon an occurrence of one of a plurality of predetermined events.** (a first predetermined condition [claim 44, lines 18-21])

**As per claim 12, the rejection of claim 11 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the system software means runs in an operational mode wherein the system is operative to receive broadcast signals** (“interactive session” [column 15, lines 9-12]) **and the loader runs in a standby mode wherein normal broadcast reception functions are disabled.** (an off mode [column 15, lines 19-22])

**As per claim 13, the rejection of claim 12 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the operational mode identifies that software update are available to the loader, and the loader retrieves available software updates.** (software updates are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18]. If the Byte 19, “immediate flag” is set, the downloaded code is transferred from the buffer to the FLASH memory area immediately, see Figure 9 and [column 14, line 64 – column 15, line 8])

**As per claim 14, the rejection of claim 12 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. does not teach **a system wherein the standby mode identifies available software updates and the operational mode installs available software updates.** (software update are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18]. (Byte 19 is used to indicate if a software is download immediately or at some time in the future. [column 9, lines 36-38] If the immediate download flag is not set and in the off mode, the convenience flag is set, see Figure 9], and the user is prompted in the “interactive session” mode whether or not to update non-volatile RAM from data which is stored in a volatile memory area. [column 15, lines 25-45] and Figure 10. Also see claim 44.)

**As per claim 15, the rejection of claim 12 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the receiver can locate updates in the standby mode generate an indication for the receiver that upon entering the operational mode, the indication that a software update is available is identified and the receiver then loads the new software update.** (software update are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18]. (Byte 19 is used to indicate if a software is download immediately or at some time in the future. [column 9, lines 36-38] If the immediate download flag is not set and in the off mode, the convenience flag is set, see Figure 9], and the user is prompted in the “interactive session” mode whether or not to update non-volatile RAM from data which is stored in a volatile memory area. [column 15, lines 25-45] and Figure 10. Also see claim 44.)

**As per claim 16, the rejection of claim 11 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the plurality of predetermined events further comprises applying power to the receiver system (50).** (startup and resets [Abstract, lines 5-8])

**As per claim 17, the rejection of claim 11 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the plurality of predetermined events further comprises changing channels on receiver system (50).** (Figure 8B, element A40)

**As per claim 18, the rejection of claim 11 has been addressed.**

Bacon et al. teaches **a system wherein the plurality of predetermined events further comprises an input to the receiver system (50)** (software update are transmitted by the headend at anytime [column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 39] and can be received by the subscriber in either mode for downloading as evident by the necessity of the convenience flag [column 15, lines 9-18])

### ***Conclusion***

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Sarfati (US Patent: 6970960) – teaches the use of a loader in a set tip box system , which downloads program data to a volatile RAM, which is later loaded to non-volatile RAM.
- Drazin (U.S. Application No. 10/560631) – teaches all of the elements of application 10/586916, except that data is buffered and later stored in dual port RAM instead of later storage in non-volatile RAM.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory Pollock whose telephone number is 571 270-1465. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 6 PM, Mon-Thu Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thu Nguyen can be reached on 571 272-6967. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 4182

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GAP

2/10/2008

/Gregory Pollock/  
Examiner, Art Unit 4182

Gregory A. Pollock

/Thu Nguyen/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4182